

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 DHA-02 EB-07 /094 W

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R 171455Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7074

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

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DEPARTMENT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 21652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CT

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT OD IRAQ MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAR

SUMMARY: IRAQ VICE PRESIDENT TAHA MUHI-AL-DIN MA'RUF VISITED CAR MAY 13-15 AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT JEAN-BEDEL BOKASSA. ACCOMPANYING HIM WAS A FIFTY-MEMBER DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDED FOREIGN COMMERCE MINISTER H KMAT AL AZZAWI. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END MF VISIT TOOK STRONG PRO-PALESTINIAN POSITION AND ENDORSED ZONE OF PEACE IN INDIAN OCEAN. IRAQI QUID PRO QUO NOT MADE PUBLIC, BUT OFFER OF AID TO CAR ALMOST CERTAINLY MADE. END SUMMAY.

1. A LENGTHY JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AT THE END OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF IRAQI VICE-PRESIDENT TO THE CAR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS SIGNED BY PRESIDENT BOKASSA AND VICE-PRESIDENT MA'RUF WERE THAT QTE A PEACEFUL, JUST AND DURABLE SOLUTION TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PALESTINIAN PROBLEM CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED WITHOUT THE COMPLETE

WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND THE RECUPERATION BY THE ARAB PALESTINIAN PEOPLE OF ALL THEIR NATIONAL RIGHTS TO THEIR TERRITORY AND THEIR FATHERLAND UNQTE. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO GAVE QTE UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT TO THE CREATION OF A ZONE OF PEACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN FREE OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE AND BASES UNQTE. IT CALLED FOR A RECONVENING OF THE AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE QTE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT UNQTE AND EXTENDED WISHES FOR SUCCESS TO THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED MEETING IN AUGUST. THE TWO COUNTRIES AGREED TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO GIVE THE CONFERENCE QTE A NEW IMPETUS UNQTE.

2. IN REGARD TO AFRICAN QUESTIONS, THE TWO LEADERS EXPRESSED NEW SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND DENOUNCED COLONIALISM, NEO-COLONIALISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ALL OF ITS FORMS INCLUDING IMPERIALISM, QTE THE COMMON ENEMY OF THE THIRD WORLD UNQTE. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO DEALT WITH THE URGENT NEED TO CREATE A MORE EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER BASED ON THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES QTE A JUST REMUNERATION FOR THEIR NATIONAL RICHES UNQTE.

3. FINALLY, THE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF A JOINT CAR/IRAQI COMMISSION WHICH WILL BRING TOGETHER EXPERTS OF THE RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND MINES IN THE SECOND HALF OF JUNE AT BAGHDAD. A LARGER, SECOND MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT BAGHDAD AT A DATE TO BE DETERMINED TO STUDY FILES IN VARIOUS OTHER AREAS.

COMMENT: MA'RUF'S OFFICIAL SOJOURN IN THE CAR, A VERY BELATED FOLLOW-UP TO BOKASSA'S STATE VISIT TO BAGHDAD IN 1972, COMES CLOSELY ON THE HEELS OF A CABINET-LEVEL LIBYAN DELEGATION EARLIER THIS MONTH. IT IS THE LATEST AND MOST VISIBLE EXAMPLE OF ARAB OVERTURES TO THE CAR, WHICH HAS UNTIL NOW AVOIDED TAKING STRONGLY PRO-ARAB POSITIONS ON ISRAELI AND ZIONISM QUESTIONS IN MULTILATERAL FORA. THE VISIT IS CONSISTENT WITH OTHER SIGNS OF IMPROVED CAR-ARAB RELATIONS INCLUDING BOKASSA'S AWARDED THE SIZEABLE LEBANESE COMMUNITY HERE HONORARY CAR CITIZENSHIP IN DECEMBER, FOLLOWED IN APRIL BY THE OFFER OF MONOPOLY MARKETING/EXPORT RIGHTS ON COFFEE TO AN EGYPTIAN FIRM.

THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GOCAR IS DEFINITELY MODIFYING ITS TRADITIONAL POSITION OF NON-SUPPORT OF THE ARAB WORLD ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES IS NOT CLEAR. STATEMENTS IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ARE THE MOST FAR-REACHING ENDORSED BY PRESIDENT BOKASSA IN RECENT YEARS. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATEMENT ON PALESTINE GOES A LONG WAY TOWARDS PUTTING THE CAR ON THE SIDE OF THE MAXIMALIST PALESTINIAN POSITION. WHETHER BOKASSA WILL MAINTAIN THIS POSITION WILL DEPEND UPON THE WILLINGNESS OF IRAQ AND OTHER ARAB STATES TO MOVE BEYOND OFFICIAL VISITS AND COMMUNIQUE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE ATTRACTIVE ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE THAN THEY ARE AT PRESENT PROVIDING. LOCAL ARAB DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN

TELLING THIS TO THEIR FOREIGN MINISTRIES FOR SOME TIME. THE IRAQI
VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT MAY BE ONE OF THE FIRST TANGIBLE SIGNS THAT
THE MESSAGE IS FINALLY GETTING THROUGH AS WE ASSUME THAT THE IRAQ'S
PROMISED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF NEW AID IN RETURN FOR BOKASSA'S ENDORSE-
MENT OF POLITICAL POSITIONS FAVORED BY THEM.
BOKASSA MAY ALSO WISH TO USE THIS COMMUNIQUE TO REDUCE HIS ISOLATION
FROM THE MAINSTREAM OF AFRO-ASIAN THINKING. HE MAY WELL ESTIMATE
THAT A SOMEWHAT MORE RADICAL RHETORIC WILL DIMINISH HIS VULNERABILITY
TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE, AS WELL AS MAXIMIZE HIS ACCESS TO AID.
QUAINTON

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED USINT BAGHDAD.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGUI00884
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760190-1099
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760548/aaaabood.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VICE PRESIDENT OD IRAQ MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAR SUMMARY: IRAQ VICE PRESIDENT TAHA MUHI-AL-DIN MA'RUF VISITED
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, CT, IZ, (MA'RUF, TAHA MUHI AL DIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006